

CITY OF



WELLS.

URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT, 1896.

To the Urban Sanitary Authority of the City of Wells.

7TH JANUARY, 1897.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board.

Towards the Mendip, Lias and Limestone abound, whilst at lower levels the Geology. subsoil consists of Beds of Gravel and Red Marl.

A large proportion of the Houses are supplied with water of excellent quality Water by the Water Company, whose storage has recently been considerably increased, supply. and whose Reservoirs are now capacious enough to provide constant service in dry seasons.

An efficient system of Drainage exists, and Houses of the better class are Drainage. nearly all provided with Flushing Tanks, and Ventilators are in frequent use. Disconnection and Trapping are general throughout the district.

The house refuse is removed by Carts daily to the Sewage Works about a Scavenging. mile distant.

New systems of Sewage disposal are under consideration, and various places Sewage have been visited (by the Council and Officers) where they are in operation; a Disposal. loan has been applied for to carry out the work.

A small Isolation Hospital is available, but it is barely sufficient for probable Isolation needs. The Medical Officer of Health, and Surveyor have reported favourably on Hospital. a scheme for enlarging it, and plans have been prepared and submitted to the Authority.

A Disinfecting Chamber exists in which Dry Air is employed, but it is not Disinfecting thoroughly efficient as a sufficiently high temperature cannot be maintained during Chamber. the process. Doubtless a Steam apparatus made in accordance with modern requirements will be substituted when the enlargement of the Hospital is determined on.

Disinfectants of excellent quality are supplied gratuitously where they are Supply of reported necessary. When Small Pox made its appearance at Gloucester, I was Disinfect-ants. requested to report on two sites, so as to be prepared in the event of the disease being imported, and a most suitable building was acquired on lease.

Notification of Infectious Diseases has been in force for some years, and Notification. Measles were included in the Schedule.

Bye-Laws are also in force.

Bye-Laws.

Dwellings of the Poorer Classes. Great improvements have been effected in this direction, the older Houses have been rendered more Sanitary as regards repair, closet accommodation, and drainage; and numerous good small dwelling-houses have been built in open situations, having gardens adjacent. Very few back to back Houses exist.

Inspection of District. I have made an inspection of the district at intervals, and found little to complain of. The whole of the Dairies, Bakehouses, and Slaughter-houses have been visited in company with the Sanitary Inspector. In a few cases I have had to advise structural alterations for purposes of cleanliness, better ventilation, and prevention of contamination of water supply, and in each case my recommendations have been at once carried out by the owners willingly and efficiently.

Common Lodging-houses. The Common Lodging-houses are frequently visited by the Inspector, and have been reported as clean, and well conducted.

Slaughter-houses. Although the Slaughter-houses are kept in a fairly good sanitary condition, the majority of them are contiguous to the dwelling-houses, and have bad approaches from the streets, the cattle having in numerous instances to be driven across the pavements, up to and through narrow passages, often with great difficulty and danger.

A Public Slaughter-house where all *Cattle* and *Meat* could be readily inspected would save much unnecessary cruelty, and be an efficient means of safeguarding the health of the Inhabitants..

Zymotic Diseases. Typhoid Fever. One case of Typhoid Fever was reported early in the year, and was removed to the Isolation Hospital, in consequence of the surroundings being quite unsuitable for proper nursing being carried out. The House drainage was found defective and put into proper order.

Scarlet Fever. Five cases of Scarlet Fever made its appearance in Three Houses, those attacked being young children, several of whom had been away by excursion on August Bank Holiday; all were promptly removed to the Isolation Hospital, and every available means taken to prevent the disease spreading, the result being that no case has since been reported.

Measles. Twenty-three cases of Measles have been notified since Nov. 18th. This disease also was doubtless imported from neighbouring villages where it has been epidemic for a considerable period, and where the Rural Sanitary Authority have not included it in the list of Notifiable Diseases, thus rendering prevention here much more difficult.

Death Rate. The health of the City has been good during the year, and it will be a satisfaction to you to know that the general Death Rate for the City is lower than any I can find recorded, and is considerably lower than the published returns for the large Towns of the United Kingdom, being only 13·06 per 1,000.

No death has occurred from Zymotic Disease.

The Infantile mortality is only 1·49 per 1,000 population.

Three persons died of Phthisis, and two of Cancer.

Within the City twelve persons died at advanced ages during the year; 1 at 92; 1 at 88; 2 at 86; 1 at 84; 4 at 83; 1 at 82; 1 at 81; 1 at 80.

Birth Rate. One hundred and twenty-nine Births were registered during the year, the birth average being 26·75 per 1,000 population.

I append the Report of the Inspector of Nuisances and the usual Statistical Tables,

And am Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,
R. PURNELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES'

SUMMARY OF WORK FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1896.

(Full Particulars were given to the Authority in regular Monthly Reports).

Premises visited and inspected on complaint or information, as entered in Inspector's Journal	...	...	...	...	334
Letters and Written Notices served	...	...	...	...	74
Weekly visits to Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	676
Notices served to properly Lime-wash Slaughter-houses in accordance with Bye-Laws	..	...	...	...	52
Visits of Inspection to 12 Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	48
Orders by the Authority served	...	...	...	...	6
Company's Water put in, or arrangements improved	...	...	...	...	7
Nuisances removed—					
Pigs kept contrary to Bye-Laws	...	...	...	...	10
Accumulations of Manure, Ashes, or Refuse	...	...	...	...	27
Defective or Choked Closets	...	...	...	...	20
„ „ Drains	...	...	...	...	27
„ „ Shooting to Eaves	...	...	...	...	6
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	3
Smoke Nuisances, Bad Smells, &c.	...	...	...	...	21

I have at regular intervals visited all the Dairies, Milk-shops, and Public Stable Yards in the City; and have found them clean and in good condition.

In all cases of Infectious Disease reported to me, I have at once visited and seen to the arrangements made for the isolation of patients, and left the formal notice issued by the Medical Officer for the use of proper precautions; supplied Disinfectants where required, constantly visited the Houses during the illness, and at the proper time personally attended to the disinfecting and cleansing of the affected places.

Wm. H. JENKINS,
Inspector.

January 11th, 1897.

